

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

May 13, 2002

IN RE:

**PETITION OF UNITED CITIES
GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL
OF A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT
WITH OBION COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

**DOCKET NO.
01-00499**

ORDER APPOINTING A HEARING OFFICER

This matter came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority") at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on May 7, 2002, for appointment of a Hearing Officer in the matter of United Cities Gas Company's Petition for Approval of a Franchise Agreement with Obion County, Tennessee.

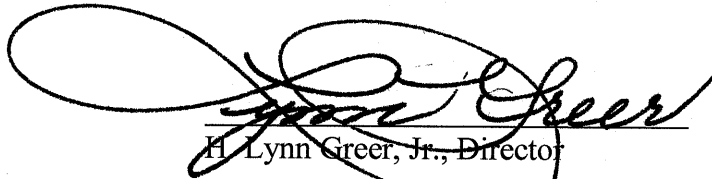
Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-107 requires that any privilege or franchise granted to any public utility by the state of Tennessee or by any political subdivision thereof be approved by the Authority. Such approval is to be granted only after a hearing and upon a determination by the Authority that the privilege or franchise is necessary and proper for the public convenience and properly conserves the public interest.

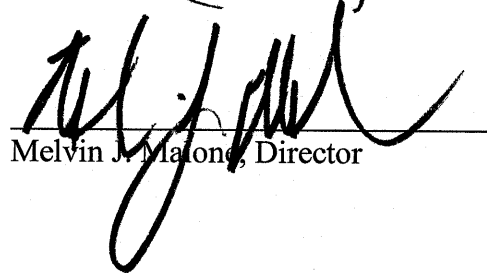
At the above-referenced Authority Conference, the Directors voted unanimously to appoint the Authority's General Counsel or his designee to act as the Hearing Officer to set a procedural schedule, conduct a hearing and render a decision on the merits of United Cities' Petition.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

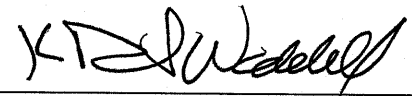
The General Counsel or his designee is appointed Hearing Officer in this matter to set a procedural schedule, conduct a hearing and render a decision on the merits of United Cities Gas Company's Petition.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director


Melvin J. Malone, Director

ATTEST:


K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary